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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2015
(26 to 30 January 2015, New York)

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First regular session 2015
(26 to 30 January 2015, New York)

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2015/1
Report on direct budget support, 2008-2014

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of document DP/2015/3;

2. *Recognizes* that the primary contribution of UNDP lies in supporting national capacity and policy development;

3. *Requests* that UNDP present an evaluation of the pilot activities carried out under this policy, including detailed information on experience gained during the pilot on UNDP engagement in sector budget support and the impact of these activities, particularly on the UNDP contribution to national capacity and policy development, before the first regular session of the Board in 2017;

4. *Agrees* that UNDP continue the pilot period of implementation of the policy on UNDP engagement in a direct budget support and pooled fund environment, at the sector level, with the flexibility to use the four engagement modalities as described in the related guidelines, until 1 January 2017, with the understanding that no new engagement be initiated beyond 1 January 2017 until a decision is made on the future of the policy;

5. *Recognizes* that all activities already approved under this policy will continue to be implemented until their scheduled completion dates;

6. *Resolves* to decide at the first regular session in 2017, based on the evaluation and management response, whether to continue this policy;

7. *Requests* that the Guidelines and Procedures for Country Offices and Headquarters Units on UNDP engagement in sector budget support and pooled funding arrangements are reviewed for consistency with recognised international practice and UNDP's use of such modalities, and shared with the Executive Board during the second regular session 2015. This should be accompanied by an information note summarising UNDP experiences of the use of this type of assistance, outlining the approach to national capacity and policy development, and providing descriptive details about the nature of the actual risks assessed;

8. *Encourages* UNDP to continue to ensure that the specific fiduciary risks associated with these modalities are assessed, appropriate safeguards are put in place and monitoring and audit processes are undertaken on a timely basis.

30 January 2015

2015/2
Revised UNFPA oversight policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the revised UNFPA oversight policy (DP/FPA/2015/1), which reflects the organization's commitment to accountable, appropriate and diligent oversight;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the consultative process undertaken by UNFPA in developing the revised oversight policy;

3. *Approves* the revised UNFPA oversight policy as contained in document DP/FPA/2015/1;

4. *Requests* UNFPA to continue to monitor the implementation of the policy and to conduct periodic reviews of the relevance and applicability of the policy with respect to the safeguarding and strengthening of UNFPA management oversight functions, including that of programme, and to report to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2017 with proposals to make further improvements to the policy, as necessary.

30 January 2015

2015/3
Scaling up UNFPA humanitarian response funding

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report (DP/FPA/2015/2);

2. *Recognizes* the increasing demand for UNFPA humanitarian response and the resulting need for additional emergency funding resources;

3. *Approves* an annual allocation of $10 million of regular resources for the emergency fund, reflecting an increase of $5 million from the previously approved level;

4. *Authorizes* the UNFPA Executive Director to increase the emergency fund by up to $2 million in a given year, if the number and extent of the emergencies so warrant;

5. *Approves* a one-time allocation of $10 million of regular resources for the establishment of the humanitarian response reserve;

6. *Requests* UNFPA to report on the status of the reserve and on the use of the emergency fund in its annual financial statements;

7. *Further requests* UNFPA to report at the first regular session 2017 on its humanitarian response funding, so as to allow the Executive Board to review this arrangement, including the criteria for disbursement of resources.

30 January 2015

2015/4
Strengthening of the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Director's initiative to align further the UNOPS governance and accountability arrangements with those of sister agencies governed by the Executive Board;

2. *Approves* the establishment of an Audit Advisory Committee to assume the roles and functions, including reporting to the Executive Board, designated to the Strategy and Audit Advisory Committee through its decisions 2008/37, 2009/4 and 2012/5;

3. *Takes note* of the purpose and terms of reference for the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee, noting that the advisory nature of the committee does not conflict with the functions of the Executive Board as laid out in General Assembly resolution 48/162;

4. *Emphasizes* that the role of the Audit Advisory Committee is to provide independent views and findings regarding assurances to management and the Board on the audit and oversight functions of the organization;

5. *Acknowledges* the UNOPS commitment to continue seeking external and independent advice on strategy and industry best practices and standards through the establishment of a Strategic Advisory Group of Experts;

6. *Decides* that members of the Executive Board will consider the selection process of the Audit Advisory Committee at the annual session 2015;

7. *Further decides* that pending the outcome of the process, the current members of the UNOPS Audit Subcommittee of the Strategy and Advisory Committee will continue their duties;

8. *Encourages* the frequency, duration and location of all Committee meetings to be determined by the quantum of work, bearing in mind the need to maintain cost efficiencies.

30 January 2015

2015/5
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

UNDP: Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2013

UNFPA report on the follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2013: Status of implementation of recommendations

UNOPS: Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2013

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the unqualified audit opinions issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for all three organizations for 2013;

With regard to UNDP:

2. *Notes* the progress made by UNDP in addressing the top nine audit-related priorities in 2012–2013;

3. *Supports* ongoing UNDP management efforts in addressing the revised top eight audit-related management priorities for the 2014–2015 biennium and in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2013;

4. *Requests* UNDP to reassess and strengthen implementation of its risk management activities, and to prioritize the implementation of the revised framework for the harmonized approach to cash transfers, along with measures to ensure its appropriate application in country offices;

5. *Urges* UNDP to enhance its oversight and management of implementing partners with regard to monitoring, reporting, compliance with controls and assurance activities, including addressing the recurring qualified audits of implementing partners and follow-up on implementation of audit recommendations;

6. *Encourages* continued efforts to uncover and prevent procurement irregularities and other fraudulent practices and improve actions for recovery of funds, and to address vulnerabilities in the Atlas system as identified by the Board of Auditors;

7. *Urges* UNDP to expedite its efforts to respond to the critical findings related to programme/project management, quality assurance, design, monitoring and evaluation.

With regard to UNFPA:

8. *Takes note* of the report (DP/FPA/2015/3) on the actions taken by UNFPA and the further actions planned by the organization to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2013;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made by UNFPA in addressing procurement-related recommendations, and *urges* continued monitoring and evaluation of suppliers with regard to quality and timeliness of goods and services provided;

10. *Requests* UNFPA to inform the Executive Board of the organization's plans to improve its internal audit coverage, with a view to decide on possible financial implications at its second regular session in 2016;

11. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue to strengthen the capacity of its offices at country, subregional and regional levels, particularly with regard to operational improvement, internal controls, oversight and risk management, and to update the Executive Board on the progress made at its second regular session in 2015;

With regard to UNOPS:

12. *Welcomes* the progress made by UNOPS in addressing the audit-related priorities highlighted by the Board of Auditors;

13. *Supports* ongoing UNOPS management efforts to ensure that the remaining recommendations are implemented;

14. *Acknowledges* that because the recommendations were issued to UNOPS in July 2014 and many of them require long-term attention, UNOPS will need to work beyond the financial year 2014 to implement them successfully;

15. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNOPS to continually strengthen local capacity building;

16. *Requests* UNOPS to continue to assess and strengthen implementation of its internal control and risk management policies;

17. *Encourages* UNOPS to closely monitor oversight of procurement activities, particularly with regard to fraud, and to seek opportunities to collaborate with other United Nations organizations in identifying reliable and efficient vendors.

30 January 2015

2015/6
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2015

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2015, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2015:

President:	H.E. Mr. Luis Fernando Carrera Castro (Guatemala)
Vice-President:	Mr. Sahak Sargsyan (Armenia)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Minami (Japan)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Kelebone Maope (Lesotho)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai (Nepal)

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2015 (DP/2015/L.1);

Approved the report of the second regular session 2014 (DP/2015/1);

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2015 (DP/2015/CRP.1);

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2014.

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2015:

Annual session 2015:	1 to 12 June 2015 (New York)
Second regular session 2015:	1 to 4 September 2015.

UNDP segment

Item 2
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2015/1 on the report on direct budget support, 2008-2014.

Item 3
UNDP country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Africa: Madagascar, Mali;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile, Guatemala;

Approved the nine-month extension of the country programme for Colombia;

Approved the two-year extensions of the country programmes for Myanmar and Papua New Guinea.

Item 4
Evaluation

Took note of the review of the UNDP evaluation policy and the accompanying management responses (DP/2015/5, DP/2015/6, DP/2015/7).

UNFPA segment

Item 5
Oversight

Adopted decision 2015/2 on the revised UNFPA oversight policy (DP/FPA/2015/1).

Item 6
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2015/3 on scaling up UNFPA humanitarian response funding (DP/FPA/2015/2).

Item 7
UNFPA country programmes and related matters

Approved the country programme documents for Madagascar (DP/FPA/CPD/MDG/7) and Mali (DP/FPA/CPD/MLI/7).

Approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Myanmar and the nine-month extension of the country programme for Colombia (DP/FPA/2015/4).

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Iraq and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (DP/FPA/2015/4).

UNOPS segment

Item 8
Strengthening of the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee

Adopted decision 2015/4 on the Strengthening of the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee.

Joint segment

Item 9
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2015/5 on the UNDP report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2013 (DP/2015/8); UNFPA report on the follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2013: Status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA2015/3); and UNOPS report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2013 (DP/OPS/2015/1).

Joint meeting

Held a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP on 2 February 2015, which addressed the following topics: (a) in partnership with others: lessons learned on scaling up innovation to reach people in need; and (b) innovative approaches to program design and implementation to support the operationalization of the post-2015 development agenda.

Also held the following briefings and informal consultations:

UNDP

UNDP event on Ebola recovery;

Informal report on UNDP resource mobilization strategy and next steps on structured dialogue;

Informal consultation on streamlined integrated results and resources framework of the UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017 (decision 2014/11);

Preliminary 2014 results and perspectives on UNCDF positioning in a changing development finance landscape.

UNOPS

Orientation to UNOPS for new members of the Executive Board.

30 January 2015

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
ANNUAL SESSION 2015
(1 - 12 June 2015, New York)

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Monday, 1 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2015
			UNFPA SEGMENT STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		8	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Report of the Executive Director: Progress in implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017 (including update on the implementation of decision 2013/5) • Statistical and financial review, 2014 • UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2014
	3 – 5 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		8	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (cont'd)
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Tuesday, 2 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT**
		9	EVALUATION • Annual report of the UNFPA Evaluation Office (decision 2013/21) and management response
		10	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	3 – 5 p.m.	10	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS (cont'd)
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Wednesday, 3 June	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.		UNOPS SEGMENT STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		11	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES • Annual report of the Executive Director
	12 – 1 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT**
		12	INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT • Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations and management responses

	3 – 5 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		12	INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT (cont'd)
		13	REPORTS OF THE ETHICS OFFICES OF UNDP, UNFPA AND UNOPS • Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities for 2014 and management responses
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Thursday, 4 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
		2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR • Annual report of the Administrator on the strategic plan: performance and results for 2014 • UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2014 • Statistical annex
	3 – 5 p.m.	2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR (cont'd)
		3	GENDER IN UNDP • Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017 (decision 2014/1)
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Friday, 5 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		6	EVALUATION • Revised UNDP evaluation policy • Annual report on evaluation and management response • Evaluation of the contribution of UNDP Human Development Reports and management response • Evaluation of the role of UNDP in supporting national achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and management response • Joint UNDP/GEF evaluation of the impact of UNDP/GEF support to protected areas management and management response • Joint UNDP/GEF evaluation of the GEF small grants programme and management response • Joint UNDP/UNEP/FAO evaluation of the UN-REDD Programme and management response
	3 – 5 p.m.	6	EVALUATION (cont'd)
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Monday, 8 June	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		7	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND • Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2014
	12 -1 p.m.	4	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT • Update on Human Development Report consultations (GA resolution 57/264)
	3 – 5 p.m.	5	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*

Tuesday, 9 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	14 1	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of decisions ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2015 • Closing of the session
Wednesday, 10 June			
Thursday, 11 June			
Friday, 12 June			